



HELEN KENNEDY CAMPAIGN UPDATE - APRIL 24TH

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1. Introduction

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response to my last message to you. As I'm sure you've heard by now, the date has been set for the NDP nomination meeting, to pick a single progressive candidate to run in Ward 20 this November. Though the location is still to be determined, May 23rd will be the date, so mark your calendar! More information on this important meeting will be coming soon.

I've been working hard in the days since I sent you my last message, and I want to let you know about some of the things that my allies and I have been doing to fight for your interests.

2. Results from our last Questionnaire

We got a lot of great feedback from our survey in the last e-mail - thank you for your responses! You identified property taxes, police accountability and the environment as your most pressing issues for this election. I've taken your concerns to heart, and I'll do my very best to make sure that these issues are properly dealt with at City Hall.

This week, I would like to ask you a question about another important issue: the availability of dog-friendly park space in our Ward. City Council will be discussing a 'Dogs in Parks Strategy' in the next few months, to create a uniform policy about how to balance the needs of dog owners with the concerns that many non-owners have with safety and cleanliness. I'd like to know what you think the city should do. Some items to consider:

- § Creating fenced-in dog runs for pet owners
- § Designating off-leash hours for certain parks
- § Deciding which parks should be dog-free, and which parks should be dog-friendly

E-mail me back at helen@helenkennedy.ca and let me know what you think!

3. Anti-Idling Blitz

Toronto police carried out an anti-idling blitz from April 3-7, laying 55 charges citywide, with 11 of these charges laid in our Ward alone. Idling cars, trucks and buses are a major source of air pollution, and I strongly support our city's anti-idling bylaw. We must be more aggressive in enforcing this bylaw and protecting the quality of our city's air. In order to make that possible, I'm calling on the city to allow Parking Enforcement officers to issue idling tickets. This important measure to protect our environment will be one of my major priorities this year.

4. Spring Arrives on the campaign trail!

Clean And Beautiful City

On Saturday, April 22, I participated in a variety of activities across the Ward as part of the Clean and Beautiful City initiative. Work began at Ecology Park in the Annex, then we moved on over to help out the neighbours in Vermont Square in Seaton Village, winding up clearing garbage from the railway tracks at Bathurst and Dupont with Mayor David Miller. We had backhoes and dump trucks at the CP tracks, and we needed them. Someone is using that section of the rail lines as a dump site. We pulled out 700 tires!

Island Airport lands: Venice on the Lake?

Planners, architects and designers from the Netherlands, Mexico City and Vancouver were part of a visioning study for the future of the Island. The Mayor, MP Olivia Chow and I were among the 100 delegates taking part in the design discussions for possible future use for the Island Airport land. Once we get rid of the airport, there are lots of possibilities. We could have a park, maybe a small village, combine a village and parklands, maybe lace the island with canals. There is huge potential. And community input will be front and center. The conference summary report will be going to council along with the World Expo 2015 bid proposal.

Support Don't Deport

Then it was on to Queen's Park to join Olivia Chow and hundreds of marchers walking to City Hall to protest the deportation and detention of non-status immigrants who have an unblemished record in Canada. Please contact me for details of how to get involved in the Support Don't Deport Coalition.

<http://www.the-story-in-pictures.blogspot.com/>

If you don't build super-jails, you can't put kids in them!

I helped organize a vigil at City Hall to mark the 2nd anniversary of the David Meffe inquest, which had urged the province to shut down a big-box youth detention centre. The inquest found that David had been charged with stealing cheques from family members. Once in jail, he was physically degraded by hardened inmates and hanged himself. As part of a coalition called 81 Reasons, we're trying to stop the provincial liberals from spending \$81 million on a new super-jail for youth in Brampton. Following the vigil, a delegation tried to present the recommendations from the inquest to the Provincial Minister at her office in Scarborough, but

were locked out. Again, contact me if you want to help on this campaign.

Read the Toronto Star article on the vigil: http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&:c=Article&:cid=1144705811659&:call_pageid=968350130169&:col=969483202845

Trying to stop another tower on the lake ...

I was at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) last week to support Waterfront residents in their efforts to stop a 22-storey tower development (70.5 metres!) at 90 Stadium Road, behind the Tip Top Tailor site on Lakeshore. The planned Monarch Development tower is right next to the Martin Goodman Trail. Traffic, shadowing and loss of green space were the key concerns expressed to the Board. Unfortunately the Board approved the application (Monday April 24th) and deemed it an appropriate development for the site. The city did negotiate with the developer an \$825,000.00 benefit for park improvements in the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood. No amount of dollars can compensate for inappropriate development!

5. Notes from the neighbourhoods

Harbourfront

I spoke at MP Olivia Chow's neighbourhood forum at the Harbourfront Community Centre on issues of concern to local residents. The Island Airport, development and traffic were key topics raised.

Seaton Village

At a community meeting, we reviewed a planning application for 524 Dupont Street and 903 Palmerston Ave. The proposed development is for 343.92 sq.metres of retail at grade and four, 2 bedroom rental units with a proposed height of 11.89 metres. Area residents raised serious issues with the development, shadowing and traffic being the most prominent. City planning staff will report back on the development in the coming months.

The Annex - Royal St. Georges College (RSGC)

Shocking news to hear that Community Council reversed the decision it made last year to turn down the applications from Royal St. George's College for their proposed further expansion into this residential neighbourhood. Council adopted a confidential report from the City's Legal department to approve the planner's report in favour of the RSGC rezoning, official plan amendment and site plan.

We must launch a strong protest against this decision which will be before City Council on April 25th. I can provide contacts if you want to participate.

That's it for this week! Remember the NDP meeting is May 23, doors open before 7 p.m., location TBA. Let us know if you need a ride.

As always, if you have special concerns, get in touch.

Cheers,

Helen Kennedy

Helen Kennedy Campaign

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead